AMENDMENTS

Please amend the application as set forth below.

In the Claims

--18. (amended) A compound of the formula I

$$R_a - A - Het - B - Ar - E \qquad (I)$$

wherein

A denotes a carbonyl or sulphonyl group linked to the benzo moiety of the group Het,

B denotes an ethylene group, wherein a methylene group, linked either to the group Het or Ar, is optionally replaced by an oxygen or sulphur atom or by a sulphinyl, sulphonyl, carbonyl or $-NR_1$ group, wherein

R_1 denotes a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6}-alkyl group,

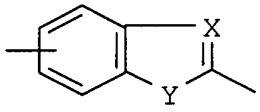
E denotes a cyano or $R_bNH-C(=NH)-$ group wherein

R_b denotes a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, [a C_{1-3}-alkyl group or a group which is cleaved *in vivo*,] C_{1-9}-alkoxycarbonyl, cyclohexyloxycarbonyl, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl, benzoyl, p-C_{1-3}-alkyl-benzoyl or pyridinoyl group, whilst the ethoxy moiety in the 2-position of the abovementioned C_{1-9}-alkoxycarbonyl group is optionally, additionally, substituted by a C_{1-3}-alkylsulfonyl or 2-(C_{1-3}-alkoxy)-ethyl group,

Ar denotes a phenylene or naphthylene group optionally substituted by a fluorine, chlorine or bromine atom or by a trifluoromethyl, C_{1-3}-alkyl or C_{1-3}-alkoxy group,

or a thienylene group optionally substituted in the carbon skeleton by a C_{1-3}-alkyl group,

Het denotes a bicyclic heterocycle of formula



wherein,

X is a nitrogen atom and

Y is an imino group optionally substituted by a C_{1-6}-alkyl or C_{3-7}-cycloalkyl group

and R_a denotes an R_2NR_3- group wherein

R_2 denotes a C_{1-4}-alkyl group, which is optionally substituted by a carboxy, C_{1-6}-alkyloxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, C_{1-3}-alkylsulphonylaminocarbonyl, phenylsulphonylaminocarbonyl, trifluorosulphonylamino, trifluorosulphonylaminocarbonyl or 1H-tetrazolyl group, or

a C_{2-4}-alkyl group substituted, at a carbon which is other the one in the α-position relative to the adjacent nitrogen atom, by a hydroxy, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkoxy, carboxy-C_{1-3}-alkylamino, C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkylamino, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-carboxy-C_{1-3}-alkylamino or N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkylamino group, [whilst in the abovementioned groups the carbon atom in the α-position relative to the adjacent nitrogen atom may not be substituted,] and

R_3 denotes a pyridinyl group optionally substituted by a methyl group,

or, if E is a group of the formula R_bNH-C-(=NH)-, a [tautomer or] physiologically acceptable salt thereof or, if E is a cyano group, a salt thereof.--

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--~~19.~~ (amended) A compound of the formula I according to claim [1] ~~18~~, wherein

A denotes a carbonyl or sulphonyl group linked to the benzo moiety of the group Het,

B denotes an ethylene group, in which a methylene group, linked either to the group Het or Ar, is optionally replaced by an oxygen or sulphur atom or by a sulphinyl, sulphonyl, carbonyl or $-NR_1-$ group, wherein

R_1 denotes a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-5}-alkyl group,

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E denotes an $R_bNH-C(=NH)-$ group wherein

R_b denotes a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, [a C_{1-3}-alkyl group or a group which is cleaved *in vivo*,] C_{1-9}-alkoxycarbonyl, cyclohexyloxycarbonyl, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl, benzoyl, p-C_{1-3}-alkyl-benzoyl or pyridinoyl group, whilst the ethoxy moiety in the 2-position of the abovementioned C_{1-9}-alkoxycarbonyl group is optionally, additionally, substituted by a C_{1-3}-alkylsulfonyl or 2-(C_{1-3}-alkoxy)-ethyl group,

Ar denotes a phenylene group optionally substituted by a fluorine, chlorine or bromine atom or by a trifluoromethyl, C_{1-3}-alkyl or C_{1-3}-alkoxy group,

or a thienylene group optionally substituted in the carbon skeleton by a C_{1-3}-alkyl group,

Het denotes a bicyclic heterocycle of formula

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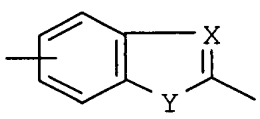

wherein,

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X is a nitrogen atom and

Y is an imino group optionally substituted by a C_{1-6}-alkyl or C_{3-7}-cycloalkyl group

and R_a denotes a R_2NR_3- group wherein

R_2 denotes a C_{1-4}-alkyl group, which is optionally substituted by a carboxy, C_{1-6}-alkyloxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, C_{1-3}-alkylsulphonylaminocarbonyl, phenylsulphonylaminocarbonyl, trifluorosulphonylamino, trifluorosulphonylaminocarbonyl or 1H-tetrazolyl group, or

a C_{2-4}-alkyl group substituted, at a carbon which is other the one in the α-position relative to the adjacent nitrogen atom, by a hydroxy, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkoxy, carboxy-C_{1-3}-alkylamino, C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkylamino, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-carboxy-C_{1-3}-alkylamino or N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkylamino group, [whilst in the abovementioned groups the carbon atom in the α-position relative to the adjacent nitrogen atom may not be substituted,] and

R_3 denotes pyridinyl group optionally substituted by a methyl group,

or a [tautomer or] physiologically acceptable salt thereof.--

--~~20.~~ 3 (amended) A compound of the formula I according to claim [1] ~~18,~~ 1 wherein

A denotes a carbonyl or sulphonyl group linked to the benzo moiety of the group Het,

B denotes an ethylene group in which the methylene group linked to the group Ar is optionally replaced by an oxygen or sulphur atom or by an -NR_1- group, wherein

R_1 denotes a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4}-alkyl group,

E denotes an R_bNH-C(=NH)- group wherein

R_b denotes a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy, C_{1-9}-alkoxycarbonyl, cyclohexyloxycarbonyl, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl, benzoyl, p-C_{1-3}-alkyl-benzoyl or pyridinoyl group, whilst the ethoxy moiety in the 2-position of the abovementioned C_{1-9}-alkoxycarbonyl group is optionally, additionally, substituted by a C_{1-3}-alkyl-sulfonyl or 2-(C_{1-3}-alkoxy)-ethyl group,

Ar denotes a 1,4-phenylene group optionally substituted by a chlorine atom or by a methyl, ethyl or methoxy group or it denotes a 2,5-thienylene group,

Het denotes a 1-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-2,5-benzimidazolylene or 1-cyclopropyl-2,5-benzimidazolylene group and

R_a denotes an R_2NR_3- group wherein

R_2 is a C_{1-4}-alkyl group substituted by a carboxy, C_{1-6}-alkyloxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, C_{1-3}-alkylsulphonylaminocarbonyl or 1H-tetrazol-5-yl group, or

a C_{2-4}-alkyl group substituted, at a carbon which is other the one in the α-position relative to the adjacent nitrogen atom, by a hydroxy, benzyloxy, carboxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl-amino, C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkylamino, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-carboxy-C_{1-3}-alkylamino or N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkylamino group, [whilst in the abovementioned groups the carbon atom in the α-position relative to the adjacent nitrogen atom may not be substituted,] and

R_3 denotes a pyridinyl group optionally substituted by a methyl group,

or a [tautomer or] physiologically acceptable salt thereof.--

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--~~21.~~ (amended) A compound of the formula I according to claim [1] ~~18,~~ wherein

A denotes a carbonyl or sulphonyl group linked to the benzo moiety of the group Het,

B denotes an ethylene group in which the methylene group linked to the group Ar is optionally replaced by an oxygen or sulphur atom or by an $-NR_1-$ group, wherein

R_1 denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group,

E denotes an $R_bNH-C(=NH)-$ group, wherein

R_b denotes a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy, C_{1-9}-alkoxycarbonyl, cyclohexyloxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl, p-C_{1-3}-alkylbenzoyl or nicotinoyl group, whilst the ethoxy moiety in the 2-position of the abovementioned C_{1-9}-alkoxycarbonyl group is optionally, additionally, substituted by a C_{1-3}-alkylsulphonyl or 2-(C_{1-3}-alkoxy)-ethyl group,

Ar denotes a 1,4-phenylene group optionally substituted by a chlorine atom or by a methyl, ethyl or methoxy group, or it denotes a 2,5-thienylene group,

Het denotes a 1-methyl-2,5-benzimidazolylene or 1-cyclopropyl-2,5-benzimidazolylene group and

R_a denotes a R_2NR_3- group wherein

R_2 denotes a C_{1-3}-alkyl group which is optionally substituted by a carboxy, C_{1-6}-alkyloxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, methylsulphonylaminocarbonyl or 1H-tetrazol-5-yl group, or

a C_{2-3}-alkyl group substituted, at a carbon which is other the one in the α-position relative to the adjacent nitrogen atom, by a hydroxy, benzyloxy, carboxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl-amino, C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkylamino, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-carboxy-

C_{1-3}-alkylamino or N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkylamino group, [whilst in the abovementioned groups the carbon atom in the α-position relative to the adjacent nitrogen atom may not be substituted,] and

R_3 denotes a pyridinyl group,

or a [tautomer or] physiologically acceptable salt thereof.--

--~~22.~~ 5 (amended) A compound of the formula I according to claim [1] ~~18,~~ 1 wherein

A denotes a carbonyl group linked to the benzo moiety of the group Het,

B denotes an ethylene group wherein the methylene group attached to the group Ar is optionally replaced by an -NR_1 group, whilst

R_1 denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group,

E denotes an R_bNH-C(=NH)- group wherein

R_b is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy, C_{1-9}-alkoxycarbonyl, cyclohexyloxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl, p-C_{1-3}-alkyl-benzoyl or nicotinoyl group, whilst the ethoxy moiety in the 2-position of the abovementioned C_{1-9}-alkoxycarbonyl group is optionally, additionally, substituted by a methylsulfonyl or 2-ethoxy-ethyl group,

Ar denotes a 1,4-phenylene group optionally substituted by a methoxy group or it denotes a 2,5-thienylene group,

Het denotes a 1-methyl-2,5-benzimidazolylene group and

R_a denotes an R_2NR_3- group wherein

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R_2 denotes a C_{1-3}-alkyl group which is optionally substituted by a carboxy, C_{1-6}-alkyloxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, methylsulfonylaminocarbonyl or 1H-tetrazol-5-yl group, or

a C_{2-3}-alkyl group substituted, at a carbon which is other the one in the α-position relative to the adjacent nitrogen atom, by a hydroxy, benzyloxy, carboxy-C_{1-3}-alkyl-amino, C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkylamino, N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-carboxy-C_{1-3}-alkylamino or N-(C_{1-3}-alkyl)-C_{1-3}-alkoxycarbonyl-C_{1-3}-alkylamino group, [whilst in the abovementioned groups the carbon atom in the α-position relative to the adjacent nitrogen atom may not be substituted,] and

R_3 denotes
a 2-pyridinyl group,

or a [tautomer or] physiologically acceptable salt thereof.--

--~~23.~~ 6 (amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

(a) 1-Methyl-2-[N-(4-amidinophenyl)-aminomethyl]-benzimidazol-5-yl-carboxylic acid-N-(2-pyridyl)-N-(hydroxycarbonylmethyl)-amide,

(b) 1-Methyl-2-[2-(2-amidinothiophen-5-yl)ethyl]-benzimidazol-5-yl-carboxylic acid-N-(2-pyridyl)-N-(2-hydroxycarbonylethyl)-amide,

(c) 1-Methyl-2-[N-(4-amidinophenyl)-aminomethyl]-benzimidazol-5-yl-carboxylic acid-N-(2-pyridyl)-N-(2-hydroxycarbonylethyl)-amide,

(d) 1-Methyl-2-[2-(4-amidinophenyl)ethyl]-benzimidazol-5-yl-carboxylic acid-N-(2-pyridyl)-N-(2-hydroxycarbonylethyl)-amide,

(e) 1-Methyl-2-[N-(4-amidinophenyl)-N-methyl-aminomethyl]-benzimidazol-5-yl-carboxylic acid-N-(2-pyridyl)-N-(2-hydroxycarbonylethyl)-amide,

(f) 1-Methyl-2-[N-(4-amidinophenyl)-N-methyl-aminomethyl]-benzimidazol-5-yl-carboxylic acid-N-(3-pyridyl)-N-(2-hydroxycarbonylethyl)-amide and

(g) 1-Methyl-2-[N-(4-amidino-2-methoxy-phenyl)-aminomethyl]-benzimidazol-5-yl-carboxylic acid-N-(2-pyridyl)-N-(2-hydroxycarbonylethyl)-amide,

[or a prodrug, double prodrug] or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.--

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--~~24.~~ (amended) 1-Methyl-2-[N-(4-amidinophenyl)-aminomethyl]-benzimidazol-5-yl-carboxylic acid-N-(2-pyridyl)-N-(2-hydroxycarbonylethyl)-amide [or a prodrug, double prodrug] or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.--

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--~~25.~~ (amended) 1-Methyl-2-[N-(4-amidino-2-methoxy-phenyl)-aminomethyl]-benzimidazol-5-yl-carboxylic acid-N-(2-pyridyl)-N-(2-hydroxycarbonylethyl)-amide [or a prodrug, double prodrug] or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.--

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--~~26.~~ (amended) 1-Methyl-2-[N-[4-(N-n-hexyloxycarbonylamidino)phenyl]aminomethyl]-benzimidazol-5-yl-carboxylic acid-N-(2-pyridyl)-N-(2-ethoxycarbonylethyl) amide [or a prodrug, double prodrug] or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.--

Cancel claim 27.

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--~~28.~~ (amended) A pharmaceutical composition containing a compound according to claim ~~18~~, wherein E denotes an R_bNH-C(=NH)- group, or a compound according to claim ~~19~~, ~~20~~,